(SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) A Pension Scheme called the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 for industrial workers has already been formulated by the Ministry of Labour. The Scheme is applicable to the employees engaged in 177 notified industries/ classes of establishments employing 20 or more persons. The Scheme provides for payment of monthly pension in the contingencies of retirement, superannuation, death, disablement, etc. The Scheme does not make any discrimination between organised and unorganised sector. The employees working in unorganised sectors, such as, Bidi, Brick, Katha, Agarbatti, Building/Construction, Coir, Agricultural Farms, Cattle-breeding, Poulty Farming, Chutni industries, Picker industries, etc., are coverable under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995. However, recently the Central Government has constituted the second National Commission on Labour to study problems of labour and *inter-alia* suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector.

Fall in values of rupees against US Dollars

†534. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the value of Indian rupee has been continuously falling against US Dollar since last few years;

(b) if so, what was the value of rupee in March, 1998, March, 1999 and February, 2000; and

(c) the reasons for a constant fall in the value of rupee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The exchange rate of the rupee per US dollar has depreciated from Rs. 39.50 per US dollar in March, 1998 to Rs. 42.45 in March, 1999 and further to Rs. 43.61 in February, 2000 (average upto February 25).

(c) The exchange rate of the rupee is largely determined by the market forces, and moves in both directions on a day to day basis depending upon the demand and supply conditions in the foreign

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

exchange market. However, both the Government and the Reserve Bank of India monitor the movements of exchange rate and take appropriate measures to reduce excessive volatility, prevent the emergence of destabilizing speculative activities, develop and orderly foreign exchange market condition and help maintain adequate level of foreign exchange reserves.

Recovery of NPAs through Debt Recovery Tribunals

†535. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Debt Recovery Tribunals were set up to recover the amount of non-performing assets of financial institutions;

(b) if so, the dates on which these were set up;

(c) whether recovery of amount of non-performing assets is being made through the above channels; and

(d) if so, the total amount of funds recovered till December, 1999 and the total amount involved in cases which are under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Under the provisions of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) have been set up to recover the amount of non-performing assets of banks and financial institutions.

(b) The dates on which the Tribunals were established are given below:

Sl. No.	Location of DRT	Date of Establishment
1.	Calcutta	27.4.1994
2.	Delhi	5.7.1994
3.	Jaipur	30.8.1994

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.